Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-20 (Cancelled).

21. (Currently amended) A method of treating a bone disease in a patient in need thereof, comprising orally administering to the patient a pharmaceutical formulation comprising

(a) a core containing a bone disease treating effective amount of ibandronate and

(b) a coating which is free of ibandronate,

wherein the coating dissolves or is separated from the core during contact with digestive solution in the patient's stomach, and wherein said coating comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of a cationic copolymer of dimethylaminoethyl methacrylate with neutral methacrylic esters, a copolymer selected from the group consisting of ammonio methacrylate copolymer Type A ~~or~~ and Type B USP/NF, ~~Eudragit® RL and Eudragit® RS,~~ a copolymer of ethyl acrylate and methyl methacrylate with neutral character, an anionic copolymer of methacrylic acid and methyl methacrylate, cellulose acetate phthalate, cellulose acetate trimellitate, methylhydroxypropylcellulose phthalate and polyvinyl acetate phthalate,

wherein the pharmaceutical formulation avoids release of ibandronate in the esophagus, ~~and~~

wherein at least 30% of the administered amount of ibandronate is released from the pharmaceutical formulation into the stomach, and

wherein when a coating is used which does not dissolve during contact with the digestive solution in a patient's stomach, a pore forming agent is included with the coating to separate the coating from the core during contact with digestive solution in the patient's stomach.

22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the bone disease is related to a disorder in calcium metabolism.

23. (Previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the bone disease is selected from the group consisting of hypercalcemia, osteoporosis, tumor osteolysis and Paget's disease.

24. (Previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein at least 75% of the administered amount of ibandronate is released from the pharmaceutical formulation into the stomach.

25. (Previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein at least 85% of the administered amount of ibandronate is released from the pharmaceutical formulation into the stomach.

26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein at least 30% of the administered amount of ibandronate is released from the pharmaceutical formulation into the stomach in less than 2 hours after the pharmaceutical formulation contacts the digestive solution in the patient's stomach.

27. (Previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein at least 75% of the administered amount of ibandronate is released from the pharmaceutical formulation into the stomach in less than 2 hours after the pharmaceutical formulation contacts the digestive solution in the patient's stomach.

28. (Previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein at least 85% of the administered amount of ibandronate is released from the pharmaceutical formulation into the stomach in less than 2 hours after the pharmaceutical formulation contacts the digestive solution in the patient's stomach.

29. (Previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein at least 30% of the administered amount of ibandronate is released from the pharmaceutical formulation into the stomach in less than 1 hour after the pharmaceutical formulation contacts the digestive solution in the patient's stomach.

30. (Previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein at least 75% of the administered amount of ibandronate is released from the pharmaceutical

formulation into the stomach in less than 1 hour after the pharmaceutical formulation contacts the digestive solution in the patient's stomach.

31. (Previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein at least 85% of the administered amount of ibandronate is released from the pharmaceutical formulation into the stomach in less than 1 hour after the pharmaceutical formulation contacts the digestive solution in the patient's stomach.

32. (Previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein at least 30% of the administered amount of ibandronate is released from the pharmaceutical formulation into the stomach 1-30 minutes after the pharmaceutical formulation contacts the digestive solution in the patient's stomach.

33. (Previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein at least 75% of the administered amount of ibandronate is released from the pharmaceutical formulation into the stomach 1-30 minutes after the pharmaceutical formulation contacts the digestive solution in the patient's stomach.

34. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 21, wherein at least 85% of the administered amount of ibandronate is released from the pharmaceutical formulation into the stomach 1-30 minutes after the pharmaceutical formulation contacts the digestive solution in the patient's stomach.

35. (Previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein about 80-90% of the administered amount of ibandronate is released from the pharmaceutical formulation into the stomach within 15 minutes after the pharmaceutical formulation contacts the digestive solution in the patient's stomach.

36. (Canceled)

37. (Previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the coating further comprises at least one cellulose derivative selected from the group consisting of methylcellulose, hydroxymethylcellulose, hydroxyethylcellulose, hydroxypropylcellulose, methylhydroxyethylcellulose, methylhydroxypropylcellulose, sodium carboxymethylcellulose and ethylcellulose.

38. (Currently amended) The method of claim 21, wherein the coating comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of a cationic copolymer of dimethylaminoethyl methacrylate with neutral methacrylic esters, a copolymer selected from the group consisting of ammonio methacrylate copolymer Type A ~~or~~ and Type B USP/NF, ~~Eudragit® RL and Eudragit® RS~~ and a copolymer of ethyl acrylate and methyl methacrylate with neutral character.

39. (Previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the coating comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of an anionic copolymer of methacrylic acid and methyl methacrylate, cellulose acetate

phthalate, cellulose acetate trimellitate, methylhydroxypropylcellulose phthalate and polyvinyl acetate phthalate.

40. (Currently amended) In a method of treating bone disease in a patient in need thereof, wherein said method comprises orally administering to a patient a pharmaceutical formulation containing ibandronate, the improvement comprising (a) a core containing a bone disease treating effective amount of ibandronate and (b) a coating which is free of ibandronate surrounding the core, wherein the coating dissolves or is separated from the core during contact with digestive solution in the patient's stomach, wherein said coating comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of a cationic copolymer of dimethylaminoethyl methacrylate with neutral methacrylic esters, a copolymer selected from the group consisting of ammonio methacrylate copolymer Type A ~~or~~ and Type B USP/NF, ~~Eudragit® RL and Eudragit® RS,~~ a copolymer of ethyl acrylate and methyl methacrylate with neutral character, an anionic copolymer of methacrylic acid and methyl methacrylate, cellulose acetate phthalate, cellulose acetate trimellitate, methylhydroxypropylcellulose phthalate and polyvinyl acetate phthalate, and wherein the coating prevents irritation and ulcerations of the esophagus, and wherein at least 30% of the administered amount of ibandronate is released from the pharmaceutical formulation into the stomach, and wherein when a coating is used which does not dissolve during contact with the digestive solution in a patient's stomach, a pore forming agent is included with

the coating to separate the coating from the core during contact with digestive solution in the patient's stomach.

41. (Currently amended) A method of treating a bone disease in a patient in need thereof, comprising orally administering to the patient a pharmaceutical formulation comprising (a) a core containing a bone disease treating effective amount of ibandronate and (b) a coating which is free of ibandronate, wherein the thickness and type of the coating is chosen so that when the pharmaceutical formulation is administered orally to the patient, release of the ibandronate in the esophagus is avoided, the coating dissolves or is separated from the core during contact with digestive solution in the patient's stomach, and at least 30% of the administered amount of ibandronate is released from the pharmaceutical formulation into the stomach and wherein said coating comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of a cationic copolymer of dimethylaminoethyl methacrylate with neutral methacrylic esters, a copolymer selected from the group consisting of ammonio methacrylate copolymer Type A ~~or~~ and Type B USP/NF, ~~Eudragit® RL and Eudragit® RS,~~ a copolymer of ethyl acrylate and methyl methacrylate with neutral character, an anionic copolymer of methacrylic acid and methyl methacrylate, cellulose acetate phthalate, cellulose acetate trimellitate, methylhydroxypropylcellulose phthalate and polyvinyl acetate phthalate, and wherein when a coating is used which does not dissolve during contact with the digestive solution in a patient's stomach, a pore forming agent is

included with the coating to separate the coating from the core during contact with digestive solution in the patient's stomach.